

## Scripture:

John 10:1-18

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

## Notes:

The concept of God as the Shepherd is nothing new

- Psalm 23:1–2, The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
- Psalm 79:13, But we are your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.
- Isaiah 40:11, He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young. (NIV)
- Psalm 77:20, 80:1, 95:7, 100:3

I AM THE DOOR

- Two kinds of sheepfolds — communal, pastoral
- Gate/door — singular entrance
- Will be saved — Coming and going and find pasture
- Thief — kills, destroys
- BUT Jesus came...

#### THE HIRED HAND

- Hired
- Not a shepherd
- Doesn't own the sheep
- Runs at the first sign of trouble/danger

#### I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (provider, vs 11-18)

- The GOOD Shepherd cares for His sheep
- Calls them by name
- Leads them, goes before
- Gathers them all
- Lays down his life
- He knows His own

Ezekiel 34:23, And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

#### WE ARE THE SHEEP

- We know His voice
- We follow the Shepherd... not stranger
- Susceptible to attack
- Known by Him & know Him

The Good Shepherd provides His sheep with the good life...He is both good TO us and FOR us.

#### THE GOOD LIFE

- “Jesus calls his followers, not to a dour, lifeless, miserable existence that squashes human potential, but to a rich, full, joyful life, one overflowing with meaningful activities under the personal favor and blessing of God and in continual fellowship with his people.”
- All that Jesus provides — being known, safety, security, provision, guidance,
- Psalm 23:5–6

#### THIS WEEK

1. Listen — The genuine response to the Shepherd is listening...obedience. Take time this week to listen to Him. We hear His voice through the Word.
2. Respond — Have you responded to Him? Are you following Him?
3. Write — Re-read John 10:1-18, make a list of the ways Jesus is good TO and FOR us.
4. Worship — Take some time to worship God in prayer or music in response to His care for us.